

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 3, 4, 11, and 12.

Please amend claims 1, and 9 as follows:

Claim 1. (currently amended): A method of changing the dynamic range of an original

2 image to more closely match the dynamic range of the medium used for a
reproduction, comprising:

4 preserving small contrast differences between different areas of the original
image;

6 limiting the maximum contrast differences between different areas of the original
image; and

8 where the maximum contrast difference in the original image is limited to a ration
of greater than 4-to-1.

10
Claim 2. (original): The method of claim 1 where a look up table is used to preserve the
2 small contrast differences while limiting the maximum contrast differences in the original
image.

4
Claim 3. (cancelled).

2
Claim 4. (cancelled).

2
Claim 5. (original): The method of claim 1 where the small contrast differences are
2 preserved with a slope of one-to-one.

Claim 6. (original): The method of claim 1 where the small contrast differences are
2 enhanced by using a slope of greater than one-to-one.

Claim 7. (original): The method of claim 5 where the one-to-one slope passes through the
2 origin.

Claim 8. (original): The method of claim 1 where the small contrast differences are
2 reduced by using a slope smaller than one-to-one.

Claim 9. (presently amended): A method of improving an apparatus that sequentially
2 determines a comparative measure of the radiance information for providing a new
intermediate value of each such measure in response to the product of a ratio function of
4 the radiance information associated with each of a first named segmental area and with
each of a second named segmental area and of a like measure previously determined for
6 the second named segmental area, and determining a sequentially new value of each said
measure in response to a selectively weighted averaging of the new intermediate value
8 and a like measure previously determined for the first named segmental area, comprising:
preserving the small contrast differences of the ratio function;
10 limiting the maximum contrast differences of the ratio function; and
where the maximum contrast difference in the original image is limited to a ratio
12 of greater than 4-to-1.

Claim 10. (original): The method of claim 9 where a look up table is used to preserve the
2 small contrast differences while limiting the maximum contrast differences in the original
image.

4
Claim 11. (cancelled).

2
Claim 12. (cancelled).

2
Claim 13. (original): The method of claim 9 where the small contrast differences are
2 preserved with a slope of one-to-one.

Claim 14. (original): The method of claim 9 where the small contrast differences are
2 enhanced using a slope greater than one-to-one.

Claim 15. (original): The method of claim 13 where the one-to-one slope passes through
2 the origin.

Claim 16. (original): The method of claim 9 where the small contrast differences are
2 reduced using a slope smaller than one-to-one.